

**REMARKS**

Claims 15-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 15 is amended. Claims 16-22 are added. The amendments and the added claims introduce no new matter. Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1-9, 12, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the article "Bridging Physical and Virtual Worlds with Electronic Tags" by Want et al. (hereinafter "the Want article"). The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 1-3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,551,681 to Ferrara. The Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 4-8, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,008,727 to Want et al. (hereinafter "Want '727"). The cancellation of claims 1-9, 12 and 13 renders the rejections of these claims moot. With respect to the rejection of claim 15 over the Want article, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Want article teaches a variety of scenarios implemented using a novel combination of inexpensive, unobtrusive and easy to use RFID tags, tag readers, portable computers and wireless networking (page 370). Specifically, when referring to certain sample applications and prototypes, the Want article indicates that tags can be located upon or within a document binder as shown in Fig. 3, can be embedded within other marks such as an embossing seal as shown in Fig. 4 or can even be located in or on the document staple (page 373).

Claim 15 recites, among other features, attaching a storage medium to the image forming member on which image formation has been started, wherein attaching comprises

stapling a staple needle to a single image forming member. The Want article does not explicitly or inherently disclose such a combination of features as are recited in the method of claim 15. Staple needles are generally used to bind two or more image forming members. The Want article, on page 373, states that "it is most natural to associate tags with the document as a whole rather than the individual pages of these documents."

In response to Applicants having made similar arguments in previous responses, the Office Action, in paragraph 9, simply rebuts Applicants' previous arguments by stating that the Examiner notes that claim 1 is an apparatus claim. Apparatus claims must distinguish over the prior art in terms of structure, not function. While this rebuttal may arguably apply to the subject matter of now-canceled claim 1, it cannot reasonably be considered to apply to the method of performing a post processing recited in claim 15. Simply because the outcome of a method may result in a structure that may have certain similar characteristics, does not render the method anticipated where the specific steps of the method are not shown to be taught explicitly or inherently, or in this case even suggested, by the applied prior art reference.

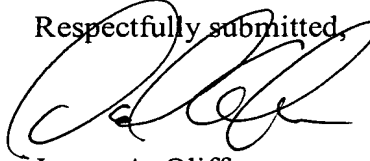
For at least the reason discussed above, the Want article cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the subject matter of independent claim 15. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Want article are respectfully requested.

Additionally, claims 16-22 are allowable over the applied prior art reference for at least the respective dependence of these claims on an allowable independent claim 15, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DAT/cfr

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: November 9, 2006

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